



Forest  
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File Code: 3420  
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Date: January 8, 2009

Subject: 2008 Douglas-fir Tussock Moth Male Moth Survey, Sacramento Ranger District

To: Donna Owens, District Ranger, Sacramento RD

This letter documents the ninth year of our Douglas-fir tussock moth (DFTM) male moth pheromone trapping survey on the Sacramento RD. This survey was conducted during the summer and early fall of 2008. This pheromone-based trapping survey is an early warning system used to monitor male tussock moth populations. Plots averaging 25 or more male moths per trap signal DFTM populations potentially capable of causing visible defoliation within 1-2 years. Once trap captures reach these threshold levels (25 moths per trap), ground sampling for larvae and egg masses become necessary to locate the infestation more precisely and evaluate its status. This early warning system was implemented on the Sacramento RD in 2000 after DFTM infestations caused visible defoliation at the Dale Resler Boy Scout Camp and along several areas in James Canyon east of Cloudcroft. These flare-ups in DFTM activity, however, were short lived and collapsed the following year due to heavy pupal parasitism by parasitic flies and wasps. Tussock moth larval populations on the District have remained at low, undetectable levels since 2001.

The purpose of this survey was to obtain an estimate of the current male tussock moth population occurring on the District and compare them with the threshold (25 male moths per trap) to determine whether or not visible defoliation was going occur within the next 1-2 years.

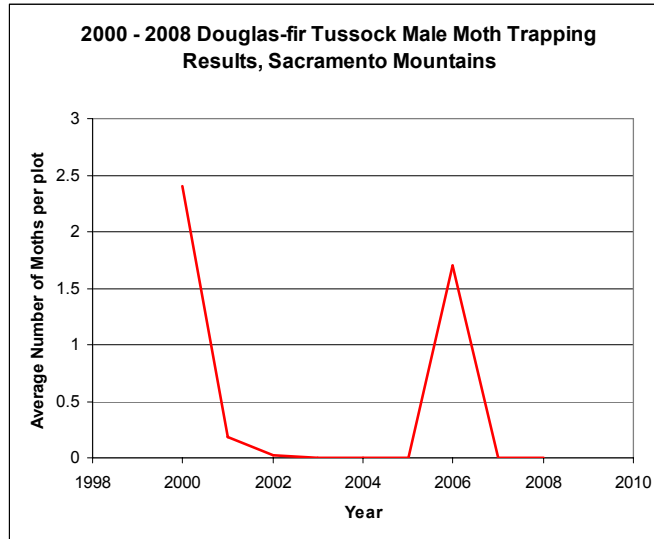
A total of 11 plots, five traps per plot, were placed at 11 sites on the Sacramento RD. These sites included Devils Canyon, the Observatory along State Highway 224, Dale Resler Boy Scout Camp, James Canyon Lookout, Wills Canyon, FS Road 5662, Upper Karr Canyon, FS Road 64, FS Road 164 (along the Rio Penasco), and Sleepy Grass and Apache Campgrounds. No DFTM male moths were trapped in 2008. Based on these results, no visible DFTM-caused defoliation is expected to occur on the District within the next 1 to 2 years. The average numbers of male moths per plot trapped from 2000 to 2008 are shown below.



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If you, or your staff, have any questions, please give me a call at (505) 842 3287 or e-mail me at [trogers@fs.fed.us](mailto:trogers@fs.fed.us).

*/s/ Terrence J. Rogers*  
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